

Oklahoma Chess Monthly

OCTOBER 2019

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma



Jim Markley in 2012.

In This Issue:

- LAST ROUND
- Center State Quads
- IM John Donaldson Review
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Editor's Note -

This month I was intending to have a tribute to the late Jim Markley (1937-2019) for this issue. However, it turns out I need more time to gather enough information to do the tribute well. I plan to have that for next month's issue.

This month features the story "Last Round" written by Dr. Kester Svendsen, one of the founders of the OCA who was profiled in last month's issue. Mike Parker was inspired to create a Wikipedia article on Svendsen, which added some additional info. You can view it here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kester_Svendsen

We also have a report on the Center State Quads, a Game of the Month by GM Jeffery Xiong, and a book review from IM John Donaldson.

Laurence Coker, the main chess organizer in Kansas, has sent me a lot of interesting annotated games from the Kansas Open, and two are included this month in the Games From Recent Events section along with other games. There will be more in the future.



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Dr. Kester Svendsen (the professor at OU from 1940-1959 who was featured last OCM) was inspired by chess to write the story Last Round, which is presented here in full.

Chess Historian Edward Winter describes it as: "A justly celebrated work of fiction, 'Last Round' by Kester Svendsen (1912-1968) was included in, for instance, Reinfeld's The Treasury of Chess Lore and Chernev's The Chess Companion. It originally appeared in Chess World, June 1947."

The game featured in the story was actually played by Rudolph Charousek v Jakab Wollner, Kaschau, 1893. This brilliancy was not widely known to chess fans in 1947; it was printed only in old Eastern European magazines and in a book of Charousek's games. It is an example of how well read Svendsen was as a chess player for him to even be aware of it.

In the original story, Svendsen describes the moves of the game using only colorful explanatory words of narrative. Chess World magazine added three diagrams to help the reader.

I have taken the liberty of adding all the moves in algebraic notation (in boldface in the text) and tripled the number of diagrams to aid the reader picture the moves even further.



Last Round

by Dr. Kester Svendsen

The Old Master looked down at the board and chessmen again, although he had seen their stiff pattern times out of mind. While the tournament director was speaking he could wait. And as he waited the old questions rose once more in his mind. Could this be it, the perfect game, the thing of beauty, the work of art? Could there come out of this tension of minds, this conflict of wits, anything more than victory and defeat? This unknowing search for secret beauty! What was the perfect game of chess? Was Capablanca right? Was it a draw, with the board exhausted of pieces? Was it a smashing victory? Was it a thing of small advantages multiplied into attrition?

The director's voice seeped into his reverie.

"Final round. Rolavsky the Russian champion leading with seven points. Draws against Henderson and Zettler. Then six straight wins."

The thought of a perfect game faded. Win? Could he even draw? Could he hold off the faultless Rolavsky, whose countrymen had for years pooled their incredibly patient testing of every defense to the Queen's Gambit and the Ruy Lopez?

"His opponent half a point behind. No one else close enough."

Continued on page ____

The Old Master looked up at the other playing areas roped off in the center of the ballroom. Epstein and Creech, poised, repeating a tableau older than memory. Batchelor, bushy-haired and nervous, glancing at tiny Zeitlin, prepared to play as if the title were balanced. The others farther away, still figures drawn sharply together over the subtlest challenge in their lives. The huge demonstration boards against the wall, runners and movers waiting to record the play in each game. The crowd, impatient for the director to finish and for this game to begin.

"Ten years since he'd won a tournament. his entry invited frankly as a sentimental gesture to the spirit of his long career, now his amazing comeback against eight of the world's best. World's championship vacated by the death of Alekhine, assured of second place, he has already done better than the old Lasker at Moscow. Can this grand old man of chess snatch a full point from his ninth and last opponent, the unbeatable Russian? He needs a win, Rolavsky only a draw."

Could he win? He lingered a moment over what a win would mean. The cash prize. Exhibitions. Tours. New editions of a champion's works. Contracts for others. No more the poverty of a chessmaster's life, articles and annotations for short-lived journals, books that barely paid their way, lessons to sharkish amateurs who wanted only to beat each other. How many masters, having given their lives to the game, had died penniless, like Alekhine?

"Additional drama. Youth and age. The only player in the world with a plus score against Rolavsky. That famous fifteen-move surprise win of his at Bitzer Lake ten years ago. Bitzer Lake! The old master looked at the board again and wondered how he should open this time. Queen's Gambit?"

"Like his countryman, Frank Marshall, he has never played to the score, but has always sought to make each game a work of art"

A Lopez? Had Rolavsky been saving a defense for the Lopez ever since that savage encounter at Bitzer Lake? Could he meet it cold, as Capablanca did Marshall's at New York and smash it? What to play? King pawn or queen pawn?

The voice stopped. The director was at his table, starting his clock. Two hours for thirty moves. The photographers near his table poised themselves as he moved his arm. He lifted his eyes to Rolavsky's face and saw etched in it the sharp memory of that defeat at Bitzer Lake.

Suddenly he felt tired, remembering the dilemma in which he had spent himself so many times in fifty years. Play for a win or play for perfection? There rose against him the ghosts of a hundred games and a dozen tournaments lost because he could never decide which he wanted. The clock at his elbow ticked insistently. King pawn or queen pawn? And, as ever, in the corner of his mind, the same old question. Could this be it, the work of art? He thought of Kieseritzky, remembered only as the loser of that ever-famous *partie* to Anderssen.

Rolavsky twisted a little, and somewhere out of the thousands of games and hundreds of players in the old man's memory there stirred a spark. The immortal Lasker playing his fourth move at Saint Petersburg. Bishop takes knight, most drawish of all the variations in the Lopez, and there was Lasker needing a win but playing bishop takes knight against Capablanca. Psychological chess. Capablanca sweating away at the thought of a new wrinkle. Lasker sitting like a stone. Rolavsky twitched again, and suddenly the old master wasn't tired any more. Conviction freshened him like wine. He felt again as at every game, before the first move.

He smiled at Rolavsky, and moved his pawn to king four.

1. e4

Photographers' flashes sprang at him. The audience riffled forward as Rolavsky duplicated the move.

1. ... e5

With no hesitation, the Old Master moved his queen pawn beside his king pawn and listened for the buzz from the spectators.

2. d4



"Center Game! Is he playing the Center Game? Mieses used to try it. But the queen moves too soon. Hasn't been played in a tournament since Tartakower tried it at Stockholm against Reshevsky. Is he crazy? Rolavsky will smash it to bits".

There was no way to decline the capture even if Rolavsky had wanted to, but the younger man seemed a little slow as he took the pawn.

2. ... exd4

The old man caught his eye again, smiled again, pushed his queen's bishop's pawn forward a square, then leaned back and waited for the avalanche.

3. c3

It came with a rush, as of collapse at a distance. Rolavsky half rose from his chair.

"Danish Gambit? Danish Gambit! Two pawns. Who can give Rolavsky two pawns, development or no development? What does he think this is, a skittles game? Danish. Not in a tournament since Marshall drew one with Capa twenty years ago".

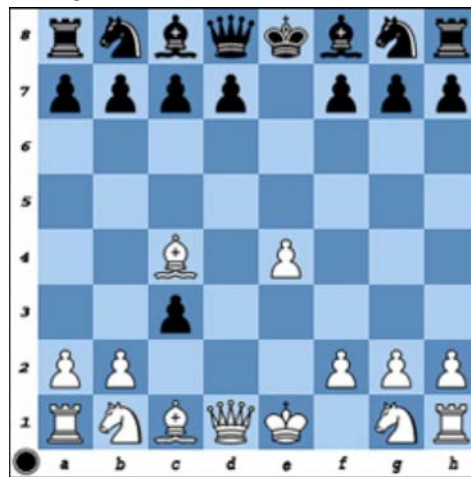
Rolavsky stared across the board, tight-lipped

in contempt. Then he took the second pawn.

3. ... dxc3

For a moment the old man's mind drifted back to other ballrooms and hotels, the Crystal Palace, chophouses and concessions, the thousand places where he had paused before a board and moved a pawn or knight. The simultaneous play where he walked forever within a horseshoe of tables: fifteen, fifty, a hundred sometimes, moving a piece or being waved by, ever returning and ever wondering with each move if somewhere, in some single play, even on a greasy board with clumsy pieces, he might pluck the secret. The thick smoke, the bad food, the hours of walking, the stale people behind the tables straining for a win or a draw against the master and playing on even though a queen or a couple of pieces down. He remembered, too, the glittering tournaments at Margate, Hastings, San Remo, Monte Carlo, with jeweled women and royalty looking over his shoulder. He lived again that moment at Breslau when Marshall plunged his queen into a nest of Lewitzky's pawns, and the spectators, caught up in the excitement of the most elegant move ever made, showered the table with gold pieces. Slowly he forced these memories from his mind and, as he looked out over the spectators, moved his bishop to bishop four.

4. Bc4



The crowd stirred uneasily, waiting for Rolavsky to take the third pawn and then hang on through the attack. The Old Master

wondered a little too. Rolavsky always took the pawn in the Queen's Gambit, probably because it wasn't a gambit at all. In the Danish he had to take the first and could take the second, according to the books. Schlechter had always taken the third too. But how lately had Rolavsky played against a Danish? He was taking too long, that young wizard.

Now it came: Knight to King Bishop three.

4. ... Nf6

Development. Playing safe. The old man advanced his knight to king bishop three and tapped the clock, as after every move.

5. Nf3

Rolavsky studied the board a long time. Again the spectators shifted about. A few moves more, thought the Old Master, and he would know whether to hope for a draw or a win.

With an edge of sudden fear he remembered that Tchigorin had once lost a game in eight moves, Alapin in five. He jerked his mind about and worried the chessmen as they waited for his turn. But Rolavsky was plainly hesitating now, as if trying to recall the best line. Surely the pawn was not poisoned. Yet, one piece out to White's two. Even before Rolavsky's fingers touched the bishop, the Old Master moved it mentally to bishop four.

5. ... Bc5

There it rested and a surge of power flowed into his mind. His reply was obvious, but he lingered over it a while, probing with his imagination the mind of his antagonist, that mind crammed with encyclopedic knowledge of standard openings, hundreds of variations in the Queen's Pawn. Was it shaken a little now, that fine machine? The crowd seemed to think so. A half-caught whisper: *"Why didn't he take the pawn? Why not?"*

Why not? Was Rolavsky thinking of Bitzer Lake and the thrust of rage with which he had swept the pieces to the floor at the fifteenth move? Now the Old Master lifted his knight and removed the Black pawn at bishop three.

6. Nxc3

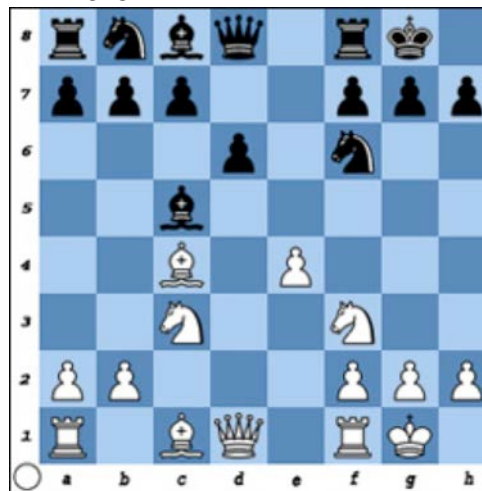
Rolavsky moved pawn to queen three; and as the old man castled, it was obvious that White

had compensation for the pawn sacrificed.

6. ... d6 7. 0-0

Again the muttering. *"Seven moves and Rolavsky on the defensive. Unheard of. A Danish Gambit?"*

7. ... 0-0



After long thought the Russian castled, and now the Old Master felt himself moving into that strange trance of chess intuition. Attack. Tempt a weakness. A combination, with the pieces piling up at one spot, cleansing the board of each other's presence. Lines of play ran through his head. The pieces on the board swirled into patterns, blended, and stiffened into place eight or ten moves on. Tempt a weakness. But would Rolavsky move his pawn? His whole queenside undeveloped? The Old Master put his hand to the king's knight and a small sigh went up from the spectators. *"One move. A single tempo. and Rolavsky's even. Why didn't he pin the knight?"* A moment's hesitation, and then he placed the knight at knight five.

8. Ng5

There. Now would Rolavsky move the pawn? The precisionist wouldn't. The arrogant refuter of gambits would. Did there linger still a trace of something from the third move? Would this Russian weaken? Rook and pawn, did he think, for bishop and knight?

Rolavsky studied the position almost interminably. Then he pushed his pawn to king rook three ...

8. ... h6

... then dropped his hand as if burnt, as if too late he had seen beneath the surface of the board a steady fire.

And now the crowd was quiet, waiting, and there began to break into the Old Master's brain a long shaft of light. A combination, the moves tumbling over one another with sweet promise. A game of equilibrium, a perfect tension of pieces, everything held in suspense by a perpetual check from Black, a fantasy of eternal motion caught in the flowing lines of a knight's pendulum move.

The perfect game of chess! He could force Rolavsky to play for a draw.

9. Nxf7

Eagerly the Old Master took the bishop's pawn with his knight and waited for Rolavsky to retake with the rook. The combination was irresistible. But would Rolavsky see the knight check he himself would have to give, five moves later, to hold the draw? Would he take the draw that would give him the championship of the world?

Rolavsky retook with the rook, and the old man moved the king pawn down.

9. ... Rxf7 10. e5

The crowd, sensing something in the quick replies after so long a series of waits, rippled with comment. *"Why didn't he retake with the bishop? If pawn takes pawn, the queen is lost. What's the old man after? No, the rook is pinned. It won't run away"*.

At last Rolavsky switched the threatened knight to knight five.

10. ... Ng4 11. e6



The Old Master moved the pawn to king six and found himself praying that Rolavsky would not take it with the bishop. The continuation darkened his mind: He takes with his bishop, I'll take with mine; he threatens mate, queen to rook five; I take the rook and check; he takes the bishop with the king; I check at bishop three with the queen; he goes to the knight square, then pawn to king rook three and he's lost. But lost in a brutal way after a blunt struggle. No charm there, no beauty, only a win.

For a moment the Old Master cursed this insane undesign to win that had cost him so many a tournament; and he hoped that Rolavsky would take with the bishop.

The pull of the title spun the chessboard before him as he thought of the fifty years he had divided his heart between fortune and perfection.

He searched Rolavsky's face as the clock ticked off minutes. Two hours for thirty moves. Only a third of them made, and Rolavsky still looking at the board. Too long.

But now Rolavsky was moving his queen, and the old man saw it glide to rook five.

11. ... Qh4

The dreaded and then hoped for continuation vanished from his mind and in its place came a sense of lightness and power. The pattern was forming. The tensions, threat and counterthreat, were moving toward that poetry of perpetual motion he had anticipated.

He took the rook with his pawn. The Black king moved under it. He played his bishop to bishop four, covering the mate at rook two.

12. exf7+ Kf8 13. Bf4



For OCTOBER 2019

Active Oklahoma Players

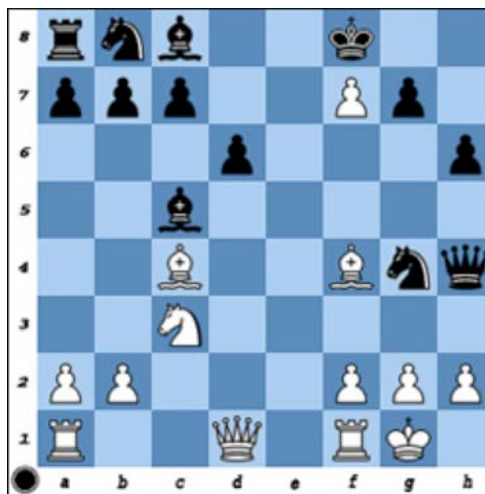
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2551	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2362	0	
3	Howard Zhong	2293	-9	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Mark Hulse	2201	0	
6	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
7	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	▲
8	Veronika Zilajeva	2091	2	▲
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	▲
10	John Cope	2084	0	▲
11	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	▲
12	Tom Patton	2077	0	▲
13	Charles D Unruh	2063	-9	▲
14	Matt Dalthorp	2062	0	▲
15	David Luscomb	2045	0	▲
16	James Long	2045	8	▲
17	Ryan Amburgy	2044	38	▲
18	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▼
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
20	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
21	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
22	Logan Zachare	1977	0	▲
23	Stephen Gehly	1958	0	▲
24	Joe Dean Veal	1954	0	▲
25	Charles Woodall	1937	0	▲



Player of the Month

Jeffery Xiong

He did the USA proud at the World Cup. He has played in Oklahoma many times, as shown here, so he is an Honorary Okie!



The clock ticked as he listened for the beating of Rolavsky's heart and in a minute or two they seemed to focus, rising in tempo until at thunder pitch the Russian pulled away the bishop's pawn and dropped his knight on the square.

13. ... Nxf2

The old man moved his queen to king two.

14. Qe2

The perfect game! He ran through the moves. Black knight to knight five, check. White king to the rook square. Black checking again with the knight. How tense the pieces looked! What a balance between White's accumulated force and the gyrations of the Black knight!

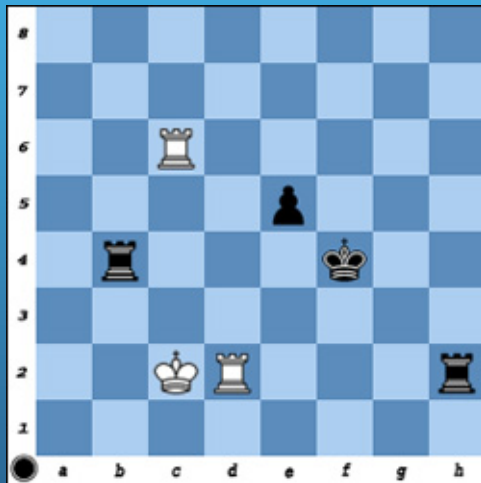
Rolavsky was sweating now, and the crowd was quiet. Twice the Russian's hand strayed to the board and twice he withdrew it. The old man went through the moves again. Then he looked up again from his dream to see in Rolavsky's eyes something that wrenched him. Bitzer Lake! The eagerness for revenge across the board shook him. Something in the game crumpled, and with it something in the old man's mind.

Rolavsky was bending over the board, demanding a win of his pieces. He didn't want a draw. The crowd jabbered, unmindful of frowns from the director, piecing out the perpetual check.

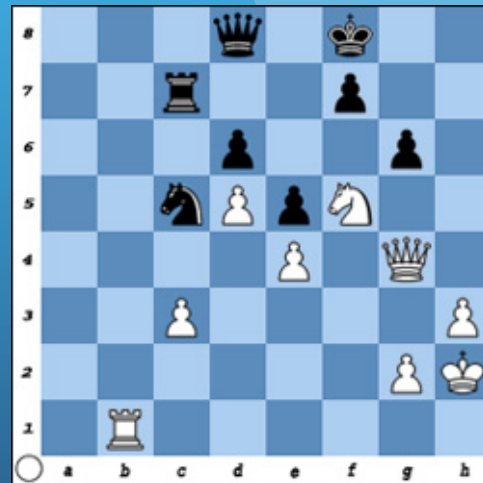
"Sure it's a perpetual. Knight just moves back and forth. Old man must be crazy. Giving the championship away. Why doesn't Rolavsky move?"

PUZZLES

Answers on
Page 11



BLACK to move and win. (Easy)
Najer-Giri, World Cup 2019

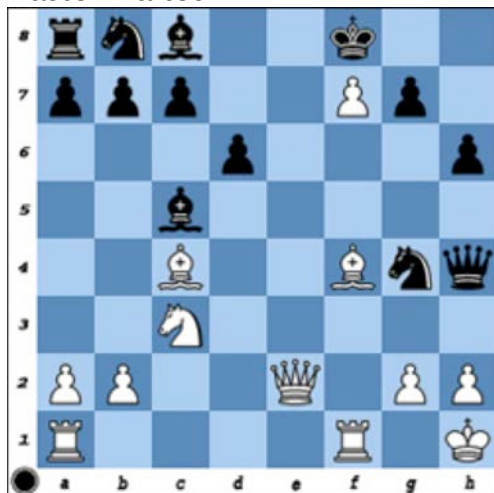


WHITE to move and win. (Difficult)
Robson-Smirin 2019

At last Rolavsky did, knight to knight five, discovering check. The Old Master pushed his king aside, and with it the illusion of fifty years.

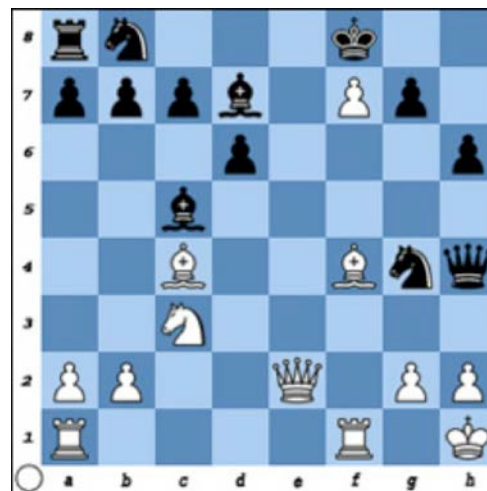
14. ... Ng4+ 15. Kh1

Rolavsky could check once more, demonstrate the perpetual to the referee, and then sweep the pieces into confusion as he rose. The Old Master waited.



But Rolavsky did not check. Slowly the old

man's eyes moved from Rolavsky's face to the silent chessmen. They blurred; then the Russian moved: Bishop to queen two. 15. ... Bd7



As he stared at the move, the Old Master recognized a new defeat. There was no perpetual check. There never had been. Blindness! As if seeing the position for the first time, he painfully picked over the moves, resisting each pull into the

combination that deluded him. Had Rolavsky checked with the knight, Black would have lost. Knight checks, rook takes knight, and if Black retakes, White mates at king eight. The Black bishop had to move to queen two to protect the mating square.

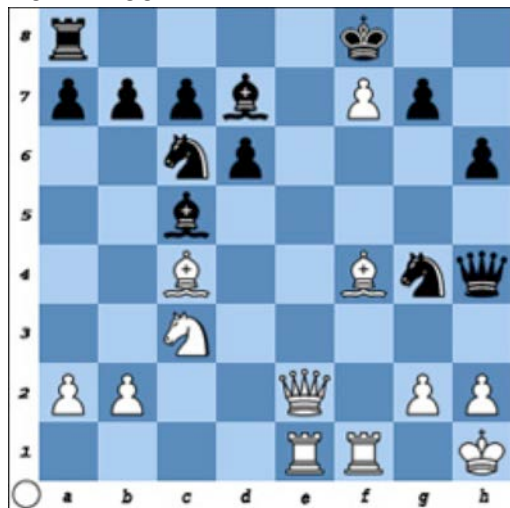
The old man looked up again; and as he stretched his hand to the board, he sensed rather than saw something else at the edge of Rolavsky's eyes. He stopped his hand, and the gesture released the breath of the crowd in a quiet sigh.

Once more he searched the position, wondering why he continued, deaf to the reawakened swell of flurry beyond the ropes. Suddenly he saw it, and everything else faded except the patterns of force formed by the pieces as they moved into their predestined places. Again the testing of each move, racked by the error of the first delusion, soothed by what he saw unfolding on the board. Finally he pulled his queen rook to king square.

16. Rae1

Rolavsky hurried his other knight to queen bishop three.

16. ... Nc6



And now it was as if some inevitable force suddenly set in motion were lifting the game away from both players. Or perhaps the old man had realized that Rolavsky was but a

chess piece too, to be moved and used. Whatever the reason, only the moves remained. The Old Master traced the final position in his mind. The rooks, side by side, one checking, the other covering an escape square. The rook on white and the bishop on black, checking together, one from afar, the other only a diamond from the Black king.

Here. Here, this was it.

There could be no mistake now.

Out of defeat, victory.

Out of death, life.

Out of the tangled emotions of this fleeting game a beauty to endure forever.

Those fifty tortured years of his had not been in vain after all. This was perfection, a work of art, an abstraction of force into an eternal tension utterly withdrawn from its creators, from the moment, from the unmoved chessboard itself.

A superb sequence of power begun by the most daring stroke of all chessdom, the sacrifice of the most powerful piece, the queen. No. No, not one queen but two! One queen, combiner of rook and bishop in its motion, to die; from its sacrifice to come a new queen, itself to die stillborn, then the mate to be delivered by its divided functions, by bishop and rook.

Surely, the old man told himself, there was no greater beauty than this. The victory was his. He had but to take it. With trembling fingers he lifted his queen, moved it steadily down the file to king eight.

17. Qe8+

Someone in the crowd gabbled in astonishment.

"His queen? He's crazy. That square's twice covered. I can't see. No, Rolavsky's time is almost gone. It's a trick. Bitzer Lake. Remember Bitzer Lake!"

Rolavsky, with a wild look at the clock, swept the queen from the board with his rook. The old man took the rook, queening the pawn with the check.

17. ... Rxe8 18. fxe8=Q+

Rolavsky's hand faltered, moved again, and the bishop captured the second queen.

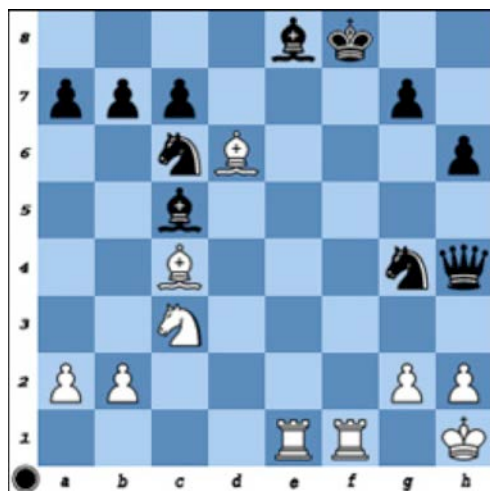
18. ... Bxe8

Then with a loving movement, a long caressing gesture, itself somehow a part of the final position, the Old Master drew his bishop up to the queen pawn ...
removed it...

left the bishop...

19. Bxd6

...and whispered, smiling gently above the file of the unmasked rook, a single word:



"Mate."



Rudolph Cherochek

The game illustrated in this story was played by Rudolph Cherochek (1873-1900), a Hungarian master who learned chess at 16 and died just 10 years later of Tuberculosis. In his international debut tournament he defeated world champion Emanuel Lasker, and was considered to be among the top 10 players of the 1890s. Reuben Fine said of him, "Playing over his early games is like reading Keats's poetry: you cannot help feeling a grievous, oppressive sense of loss, of promise unfulfilled."

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) To win a game, all you need to do is steer it into an ending you know is a win. In pawn-up rook endgames, this often means keeping the opposing king cut off from your passed pawn.

1. ... Rb2+ ! (Not 1... Rxd2+? In that case the W king gets in front of the pawn.)

2. Kxb2 Rxd2+ 3. Kc1 Rd8! This is the point. By exchanging rooks this way the W king is cut off, on the long side of the pawn, and it is now an easy win.

(2) Black has back-rank problems thanks to the N on f5.

1. Qh4! (Like all back-rank mate combinations, the key usually is to deflect the defender off the back rank. If now 1. ... Qxh4? 2. Rc8+! and mates. Meanwhile Black's queen is attacked and white also threatens Qh8 mate!)

1. ... Ke8

Getting out of both threats, but now: 2. Rb8! Qxb8 3. Qh8+ wins the queen.

Chess Coaching Available from USCF Life Master Tom Braunlich



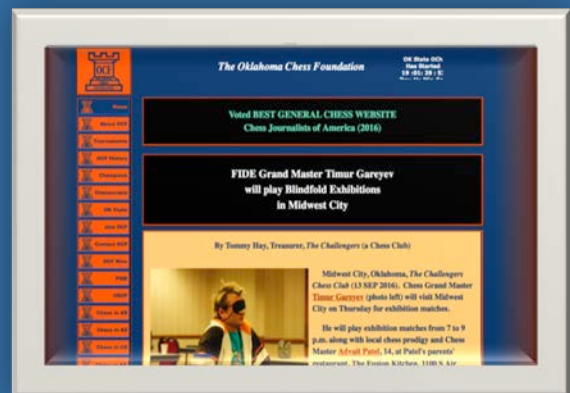
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CENTER STATE QUADS

No “Rain Out” at the Baseball Camp

On a rainy Saturday 21st of September, eighteen players met at the rustic baseball camp meeting hall in Chandler, midway between Oklahoma City and Tulsa, to play some quads. Pizza was for lunch and for desert was a selection of arduous attacks and stony swindles.

The event was very amiably hosted by Michael Bay, who generously stocked the fridge for us with a nice selection of free drinks, and even picked up the pizzas in town. It was a very pleasant place to play a practice event of this kind. There was a \$50 first place in each section.

Quad 1 was won by Ryan Amburgy and Chris Dooley, with 2-1 scores. Ryan was cruising when Dooley upset him in the final round to earn a tie. Scott Hader (1758), of Stillwater, was playing in his first event in 10 years and had an even score despite being low seed.

Quad 2 was dominated by Oscar Wang (3-0) who played some fierce attacking chess.

Quad 3 was won by Maxwell Xie (3-0). He and brother Kelvin are both already in Class B and going up like a rocket. It must be convenient for them to have a close sparring partner.

Swiss was used for the remaining six players, thanks to Chris Amburgy who filled in to make an even number. Istvan Szabad defeated Chris in the last round to tie with Lafayette Chen (2½).

Full crosstables here: <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201909212532-15437654>
The tournament director was Tom Braunlich. Some games are on the Games page.



Above: Quad 1 players Luke Tran, Scott Hader, Chris Dooley, Ryan Amburgy.
Upper right: Scott Hader.
Lower right: Oscar Wang



Honorary Okie GM Jeffery Xiong of Dallas had an impressive run at this month's World Cup and raised his rating up to 2712 in elite territory.

In mini-matches he defeated:

- GM Igor Lysyj (2596) 2-0
- GM M. Tabatabaei (2642) 3-1
- GM Anish Giri (2780) 3½ - 2½
- GM Jan Krzysztof Duda (2730) 4½ - 3½

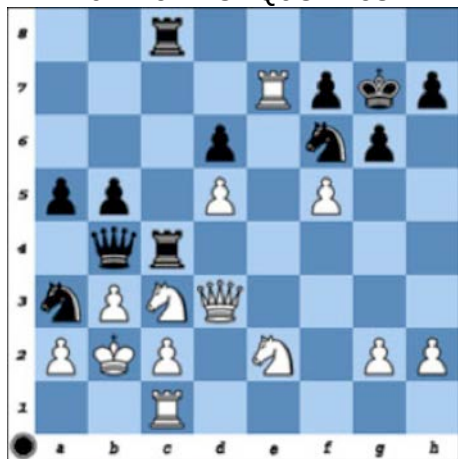
Then he lost a close match to GM Teimour Radjabov (2758) ½ - 1½.

GM Anish Giri (2780)

GM Jeffery Xiong (2707)

World Cup 2019 ECO A04

1. Nf3 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. d4 d6 4. Be3 Nf6 5. Nc3 O-O 6. Qd2 Nc6 7. d5 Nb8 8. Bh6 c6 9. Bxg7 Kxg7 10. O-O-O cxd5 11. exd5 Bg4 12. Be2 Nbd7 13. Rhe1 Rc8 14. Nd4 Bxe2 15. Rxe2 Ne5 16. f4 Nc4 17. Qd3 Qb6 18. b3 Na3 19. Rxe7 Qb4 20. Nde2 Rc5 21. Qd4 a5 22. Kb2 Rc4 23. Qd3 Rfc8 24. Rc1 b5 25. f5



25. ... Rxc3!

You might think the idea of this is to take three times on c3 then play ...Nxd5 to fork the rook on e7, but that would lose the loose



GM Jeffery Xiong at the World Cup (Photo by Kirill Merkureyev)

N on a3. That's what Giri thought too. But Xiong's last move had set up another threat.

26. Nxc3 Rxc3 27. Qe2

It turns out 27. Qxc3 would lose the queen to 27...Nc4+. But Giri retreats with threats on the e-file that however Xiong nixes.

27... Nc4+ 28. Ka1 Ne5 29. fxc6 hxc6 30. Rf1 Qd4 31. Kb1 Nxd5 32. Rd1 Rd3 33. Rxd3 Nxd3 34. Qxd3 Qxd3 35. Rxf7+ Kxf7 36. cxd3 Nf4 0-1

This was the final blitz tiebreak game that decided the match with Duda:

GM Jeffery Xiong (2707)

GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda (2730)

World Cup 2019

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. f4 Bf5 6. Nc3 e6 7. Nf3 Be7 8. Be3 O-O 9. Be2 dxe5 10. fxe5 Nc6 11. O-O f6 12. exf6 Bxf6 13. b3 Qe7 14. Qe1 Rad8 15. Rd1 Bg4 16. Ne4 h6 17. Qg3 Bf5 18. Nxf6+ Rxf6 19. Nh4 Bc2 20. Rxf6! (Ramping up the complexity with this move) Bxd1 21. Rg6 Nxd4 22. Bd3 Ne2+ 23. Bxe2 Bxe2 24. Bxh6 Rd1+

24... Qc5+ 25. Be3 Rd1+ 26. Kf2 Qf8+ was the subtle way to hold the position for black; now black's g-pawn falls and it's lights out.

25. Kf2 Qf8+ 26. Nf3 Rd7 27. Kxe2 Kh7 28. Ng5+ Kh8 29. Nxe6 Qf5 30. Bxg7+ Kg8 31. Bd4+ Kf7 32. Rf6+ 1-0



Two young future champions played a very exciting fourth-round match that went down to a final tiebreak. In this rapid game Jeffery was trailing and needed a win to continue the match.

GM Jeffery Xiong (2707)
GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda (2730)
World Cup 2019 ECO C42
(Notes by Braunlich)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d3 Nf6 6. d4

White's last two moves, a two-step to push back the knight before going d2-d4, instead of playing it in one move, is not considered dangerous. For one thing, black can transpose into the boring exchange variation of the French by playing ...d5 himself. It is surprising perhaps that Xiong would choose this variation in a must-win game. But Duda follows a theoretical recommendation to play for a quick ...c5 break instead.

6. ... Be7 7. Bd3 O-O 8. O-O c5 9. Nc3!?

9. c4 d5 10. dxc5 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Qxd1 12. Rxd1 Bxc5 is dead equal. More interesting is 9. d5 Bg4 (9... Nxd5 10. Bxh7+ Kxh7 11. Qxd5 Nc6 which is also considered balanced).

Xiong's move he has tried before, last year in a game with GM Miroshenko, who was the broadcast commentator on this match!

9 ... Bg4 !?

The above-mentioned game went 9... Nc6 10. d5, Nb4 with only a tiny edge to white.

10. h3 Bh5 11. g4 Bg6 12. d5 Nfd7 13. Re1 Na6 14. Bf4 Nc7 15. Bxg6 fxg6 16. Bg3 Rf7 17. Ne4

Nimzovich no doubt would have preferred his



Photo by Kiril Merlureyev

patented maneuver Nf3-d2-c4 here (prefaced by 17. a4) with a good game. But Xiong is anxious to attack, needing a win.

17...Nb6



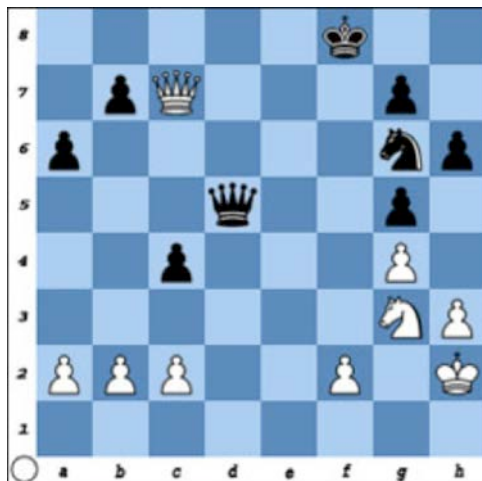
18. Ne5!?

A brave pawn sacrifice, creating an ongoing imbalance on the board. White will end up with a strong N on e4 and a weak pawn on e5 to hassle, but black's N will make it to f4, where it will spell danger when backed up by doubled rooks on the f-file.

18... dxe5 19. d6 Ncd5 20. dxe7 Qxe7 21. Qd3 c4 22. Qd2 Raf8 23. Rad1 Nf4 24. Kh2 h6 25. Qa5 Nc8

Suddenly a passive move by Duda. He should try active defense with 25...Qc7 or even 25...h5!?

26. Qb5 Qc7 27. Nc3 g5 28. Qxe5 Qb6 29. Qb5 Qg6 30. Ne4 Rc7 31. Rd4 a6 32. Qa5 Qc6 33. Qd2 Re7 34. Bxf4 Rxf4 35. Rd8+ Rf8 36. Ng3 Rxe1 37. Rxf8+ Kxf8 38. Qxe1 Ne7 39. Qe5 Qd5 40. Qc7 Ng6



41. Nf5

In order to win, Jeffery needs his knight in play, but this opens up his king to checks. This move allows Duda to exchange queens and thus apparently come closer to the draw he needs.

But it is well known that knight endings are very tricky, especially when time pressure is looming. So even though the computer says black is nearly equal here, don't believe it. In a human game there are lots of pawn weaknesses and chances will come...

Jeffery plays this ending beautifully, teasing out some winning chances. Worth study!

41. ... Qe5+ 42. Qxe5 Nxe5 43. Kg3 g6 44. Nd6 b5 45. f4 gxf4+ 46. Kxf4 Nc6 47. c3 Ke7 48. Ne4 a5 49. a4!? bxa4 50. Nd2 Kd6 51. Nxc4+ Kc5 52. Ne3 Na7?

Duda cracks, taking a moment to redeploy the knight when he lacks the time to do so. Better was 52... g5+ 53. Kf5 Ne7+! Because if 54. Kf6 Nd5+ 55. Nxd5, Kxd5 this pawn ending is a draw — according to Stockfish. But Duda didn't have time to figure that out, as both players were down to 1-2 minutes left.

Duda also puts up a vigorous defense and nearly saves the game, but not quite!

53. g5! hxg5+ 54. Kxg5 Nb5 55. Kxg6 Nxc3!

The best chance, sacrificing his N to get counterplay with his a-pawns, counting on the truism that knights are terrible at dealing with rook pawns.

56. h4!

56. bxc3? a3 57. Nc2 a2 58. h4 Kc4 59. Na1 Kxc3 60. h5 Kb2 61. h6 Kxa1 62. h7 Kb1 63. h8Q a1Q Draw

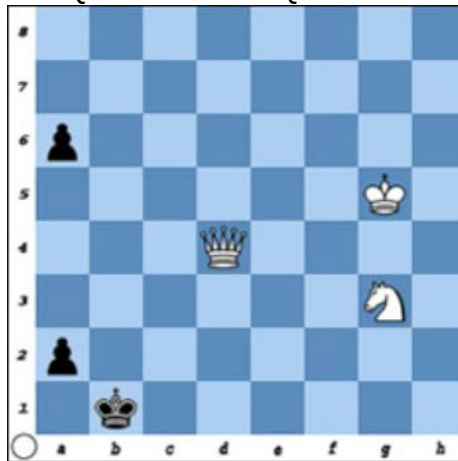
56... Ne2 57. Kg5 Ng3 58. Nf5 Kb4

Offering the knight again, but this time Jeffery can take it!

59. Nxc3 Kb3 60. h5 Kxb2 61. h6 a3 62. h7 a2 63. h8=Q+ Kb1

Despite being up a Queen and Knight, this position is not easy to win! Black is constantly threatening to queen if you don't keep him in check. Yet Jeffery finds the win with just a minute on his clock! The method involves using checks to position his queen in his best position, then bringing up the knight at the right moment...

64. Qb8+ Kc2 65. Qc7+ Kb2 66. Qb6+ Kc2 67. Qc5+ Kb2 68. Qd4+ Kb1



69. Ne4!

With the Q in the right spot, now he brings in the knight. Even though black is allowed to queen, his king will be stuck defending that queen allowing some knight checks that decide the game! All black's moves now are forced:

69... a1=Q 70. Nd2+ Ka2 71. Qa4+ Kb2 72. Nc4+ Kb1 73. Qd1+ 1-0

After ...Ka2 74. Qc2+ and mates!



Pai, Rahul (1591)
 Parker, Mike (1564) [B78]
 Center State Quads 2019 (2), 21.09.2019
[Notes by TB]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3
 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7
 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5

The players have blitzed out one of the main lines of the Dragon, one that I remember studying back in the 1970s. The Ne5-c4 idea has long been the main move here, but there is an alternative that is interesting: 11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.exd5 a5 16.a3 and here earlier this month Carissa Yip won a game with the new move 16...Rc5!?

12.h4 h5

[The old main line, which is not played much anymore, used to be 12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.h5 Nxh5 15.g4 Nf6 White has lots of ways to get the better game here.]

13.Bh6 [13.Bg5; 13.Kb1] 13...Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.g4 Qc7?! [16...hxg4 17.h5 Rh8 is the modern mainline, which is supposed to be dynamically equal.]

17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Rc8 19.c3?

This weakness is not yet necessary as black is not yet threatening ...Rxd4 (white retakes with check). [19.gxh5 Qc5 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.h5 Qxd5 22.hxg6 white seems to be winning.]

19...b5 20.gxh5

[Now this is too slow. Better is to hinder black's play with 20.Kb1 in order to be able to meet 20...b4 with 21.cxb4 . Unclear.]

20...b4 21.Ne2?

Passive defense in the Dragon should be avoided. [Mixing it up with something like 21.hxg6 bxc3 22.Qe3!? cxb2+ 23.Kxb2 is the only chance.]

21...bxc3 22.Nxc3 Bf5!

The bishop is great for both attack and defense here.

23.Qe3 Rxc3+??

Trading down into an interesting ending, but it isn't winning. With white's king under fire black should increase the tactical pressure instead: [23...Qb7! Threatening now ...Rxc3+ followed by ...Qb1+ winning. 24.Rd3!? What else? White must block the diagonal. 24...Qb4 winning.]

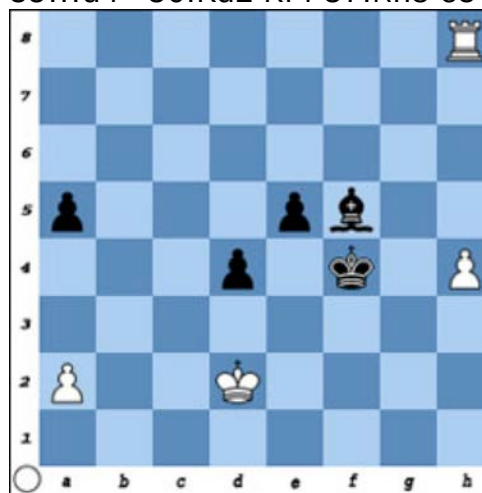
24.Qxc3+ Qxc3+ 25.bxc3 Rxc3+ 26.Kd2 Rxf3 27.Rh2 gxh5 28.Ke1 Kf6 29.Rf2 Rxf2?

Black keeps a slight edge, but only if he avoids the trade of his rook. Now white starts to take over.

30.Kxf2 Ke5 31.Ke3 e6 32.dxe6 fxe6 33.Rg1 a5!?

[33...Bg4 allows 34.Rb1]

34.Rg5 d5 35.Rxh5 Now that white has his own passed pawn he has winning chances. 35...d4+ 36.Kd2 Kf4 37.Rh8 e5



38.Ra8?

[I think Rahul took time to go after this pawn because he miscalculated the exchange sacrifice he plays in a few moves, thinking it was winning. Instead he can win right away just by pushing his passed pawn, while combining that with the idea of slowing down black's pawns by using his rook from behind:

38.h5 e4 39.h6 e3+ 40.Ke1 Bc2 (40...d3 41.Rf8) 41.h7 d3 42.Rf8+ Kg5 43.Rd8! d2+ 44.Rxd2 Bxh7 45.Rd4 and wins.]

38...e4 39.Rxa5 e3+ 40.Ke1 d3

Now white is struggling to draw. Simplest now would be 41. Rd5 to sac the rook for the two pawns. But he had planned an exchange sac instead. Young players always seem to underestimate how complicated pawn endgames can be. The two passed rook pawns look unstoppable, but actually white is on the verge of losing here.

41.Rxf5+ Kxf5 42.a4??

[42.h5 wins a tempo and squeaks out a draw (see below).]

42...Ke4 43.a5 Kf3 44.a6 d2+ 45.Kd1 Kf2 46.a7

If white had pushed the h-pawn first on move 42 and forced black to go after it, we would have ended up in this same position except with the h-pawn gone but white to move, so white could queen and it would be a draw.

46...e2+ 47.Kxd2 e1Q+ 48.Kd3 Qa1 49.Ke4 Qxa7 50.Kf5 Qg7 0-1

Wang, Oscar (1708)

Xie, Kelvin (1647) [B21]

Center State Quads 2019 (2), 21.09.2019

[Notes by TB]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 e6 7.O-O a6 8.Qe2 Nge7!?

A fairly rare try here that actually has had good results in the database, but Oscar I think rightly criticized it as awkward.

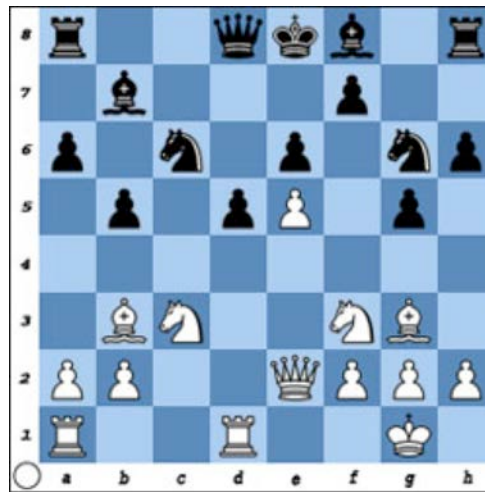
9.Rd1 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Bg5!

A good move, developing with an annoying pin.

11...h6

[Black would like to get out of the pin with 11...Qc7 also controlling e5, but then white takes advantage of his missing c-pawn with 12.Rac1 threatening Nd5 and an obvious advantage.; 11...Qd7 instead is feasible, according to the computer, with a slight edge to white. But Kelvin chooses the human move, getting rid of the annoying pin.]

12.Bh4 g5 13.Bg3 Ng6 14.e5! d5



15.Bxd5! exd5 16.Nxd5 Qa5??

[A losing mistake. It safeguards the queen but on a5 it is out of play. The only move for black was to stop white's threat of Nf6+ with 16...Nd4! 17.Rxd4 Bxd5 18.Rad1 Ne7 Although here white has obvious compensation for the piece, black has exchanged some pieces and white's N and B are temporarily badly placed. White apparently would have to spend some time to redeploy with 19.Nd2 intending either f2-f4 or N-e4-f6. So the position would be pretty unclear.]

17.Nf6+ Ke7 18.Rd7+ Ke6 19.Rxb7?

[Such a tempting move — since you know winning the piece back means you have an easily won game you make such a move without thinking. But in such positions you have to cultivate your sense of chess beauty and look around for something better. If you take the time to do that you find: 19.Nxg5+ hxg5 20.Qg4# mate.]

19...Bg7 20.Qe4 Nge7 21.Rxe7+

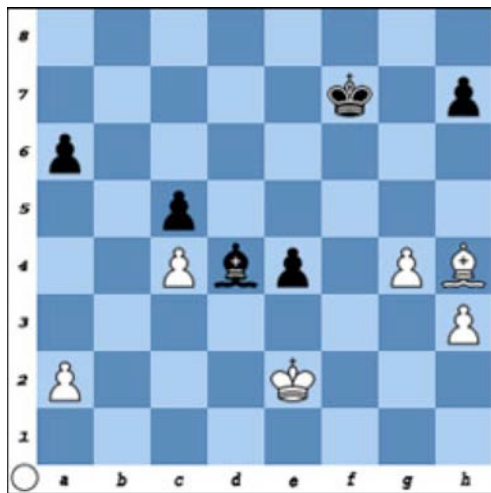
[Oscar again chooses a prosaic simple way to win, winning a piece, but there is a pretty mate with 21.Rc1 This targets the N that covers d4 (which is in turn preventing Nd4 mate). 21...Bxf6 (21...Rac8 22.Rxc6+ and mate next move with Nd4 or Qg4.) 22.Rxc6+ Nxc6 23.Qxc6+ Kf5 24.Nd4+ Kg6 25.Qxf6+ Kh5 26.Qxf7+ Kg4 27.Qf3#]

21...Kxe7 22.Qxc6 Rhd8 23.Qc5+ Ke6 24.Nd4+ Rxd4 25.Qxd4 Rd8 26.Qc5 Bxf6 27.exf6 Kxf6 28.Bc7 1-0

Jason Wawrzaszek (1986)
 Tony Dutiel (1813)
 2019 Kansas Open 20.07.2019

(Notes by Laurence Coker)

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
 1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 d6
 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Ne5
 Last book move 9.Bb3 c5 10.Nf3 Be6 11.Nxe5
 dxe5 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Qe2 Qe8 14.Qc4 Qc6
 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Rad8 17.Rad1 a6 18.e5
 Nd5 19.Bc1 Nxc3 20.Qxc3 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Re8
 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8
 25.Qg3 Qd7 26.Bh6 Bc7 27.Kh2 b5 28.b3 Qf7
 29.c4 Kh8 30.Qf4 Qxf4+ 31.Bxf4 g5 32.Bxg5
 Bxe5+ 33.Kg1 bxc4 34.bxc4 Bd4+ 35.Kf1 Kg7
 36.g4= Kg6 37.Be7 e5 38.Ke2 Kf7 39.Bh4 e4?
 First mistake. Black must keep this pawn on e5



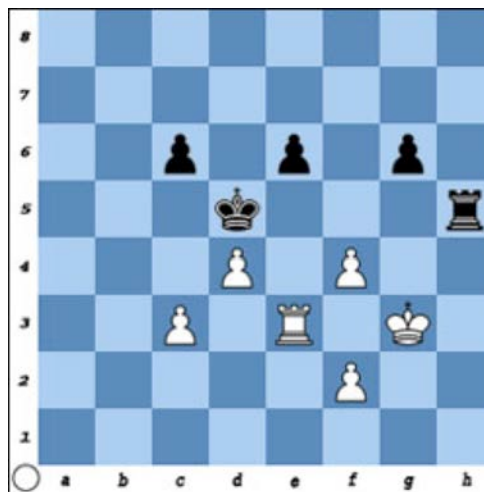
40.Bf2! Bxf2? This loses faster [40...Ke6 loses
 also 41.Bxd4 cxd4 42.h4 white to get passed
 pawns on two wings; 40...Bb2 best to lose
 pawn but keep bishop on board 41.Bxc5 Ke6
 42.Be3 Bf6 43.Bd2 +-(1.49)] 41.Kxf2 Kf6 42.h4
 h6 43.Ke3 Ke5 44.h5 a5 45.a4 Zugzwang
 45...Kf6 46.Kxe4 Ke6 47.Kf4 Kf6 48.g5+
 hxg5+ 49.Kg4 Kf7 50.Kxg5 Kg7 51.Kf5 1-0

Luke Tran (1953)
 Zach McGinty (1613)
 2019 Kansas Open, 20.07.2019
 (Notes by Luke Tran and L. Coker)

C10: French with 3 Nc3.
 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6
 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.Nf3 Bd7 last book move 7.Bf4
 Bc6 8.c3 Bd6 9.Bg3 Nd7 10.Bd3 Nf8 11.0-0

Bxg3 12.hxg3 Ng6 13.Re1 Qd6 14.b4 0-0-0
 15.b5 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 f5 17.a4 h5 18.a5 h4
 19.b6 a6 20.bxc7 Qxc7 21.Ra4

21...Rd6? [21...Ne7 better 22.Rc4 Nc6 23.Rc5
 hxg3 24.Bxa6 Rd5 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Bd3 gxf2+
 27.Kxf2 Qxa5 28.Bxf5+ Kc7 ±(0.80)] 22.Rc4
 Rc6 23.Rxc6 Qxc6 24.Qxc6+ bxc6 25.Bxa6+
 Kc7 26.gxh4 Ra8 27.Be2 Rxa5 28.Bh5 Kd6
 29.g3 f4 30.Bxg6 fxg6 31.gxf4 Rh5 32.Kg2
 Rxh4 33.Kg3 Rh5 34.Re3 Kd5



35.Kg4

(Luke) "When I played Kg4, I saw I missed
 Re5. If he played Kd6, I would repeat with
 Kg3 and after he "repeats again" I would have
 played Re5."

35...Rf5?

This allows white to go into won pawn and
 king endgame. Better to avoid exchange of
 rooks being a pawn down. [35...Kd6 36.Re5
 Rh2 37.Kg3 Rh1 38.Rc5 Rg1+ 39.Kh3 Rh1+
 40.Kg2 Rc1 only slight advantage for white
 2(0.39)]

36.Re5+ Rxe5?

This just makes things worse [36...Kc4 best
 but still losing 37.Rxe6 Kxc3 38.Rxc6+ Kxd4
 39.Rxg6 Ra5 40.f5 more difficult for white to
 win, though should win for white; 36...Kd6
 saves e6 pawn but allows white to go into
 won king and pawn endgame after exchange
 of rooks 37.Rxf5 gxf5+ 38.Kg5]

37.dxe5 Kc4 38.Kg5 Kxc3 39.Kxg6 Kd4
 40.f5 exf5 41.e6 1-0

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Oct 12

NATIONAL CHESS DAY SPECIAL!

Tulsa OK



Rated chess mixed with unrated Fischer-Random (F/R) in both "Rapid" and "Blitz" formats! **12-SS** — 4 Rapid games (G/25+10) of 2 Chess and 2 F/R, plus 4 rounds of Blitz Chess and 4 rounds of Blitz F/R (G/5+2). Scoring is 2 points per rapid game, and 1 per blitz game, for a maximum of 16 points. Swiss pairings derived from players' combined scores.

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Nov 9-10

OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN

OKC, OK



5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Residence Inn OKC, (North-Quail Springs) 1-405-286-1020. 13900 McAuley Blvd., OKC (2 miles West of Quail Springs Mall on Memorial Rd.) **HR-** \$99 chess rate for a suite -- Ask for "US Chess" rate. **EF:** \$40 if mailed by Nov. 6, \$50 thereafter, free for Masters (deducted from prizes). Two Sections: Open and U1600. Prizes: \$2,200 all guaranteed. Open: \$500-250, X 200, A 200, B 200. Reserve: \$200-100, D 200, E 200, Below 1000 \$100. Unr \$50. Registration: 9-9:45 a.m. Sat. Nov. 9. Byes: Only one 1/2-pt bye for Rds 1-4. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries: Jim Berry, PO Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. **Questions:** Jaberrycg@aol.com. **Web:** www.ocfchess.org.

Dec 7-8

Christmas Tree Open

Kansas City MO

5-SS, G/100+10. KCI Expo Center, 11730 N Ambassador Dr, Kansas City MO, 64153. REG: 8-9:30 12/7. **EF:** \$62 by 12/4 via online entry at www.acerook.com/ctoregister; \$74 on-site. **Prizes:** (\$2100 b/60): **Open:** \$360 - \$270 - \$180 - \$90; U2000 - \$75, U1800 - \$75; **Reserve:** \$360 - \$270 - \$180 - \$90; U1300 - \$50, U1100 - \$50, U900 - \$50. Hotel: Holiday Inn Kansas City Airport – 11728 N Ambassador Dr, Kansas City MO, 64153 -- **HR:** \$101-\$108, mention Acerook Chess. More info: Brian Yang at AcerookChess@gmail.com Website: <https://www.acerook.com/2019christmastree>

Dec 28

29th Annual HOLIDAY OPEN

Tulsa OK



4-SS, G/50+15 spm. (Dual rated). Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Cash Prizes \$200-1st(G), plus other cash prizes per entries. **Free coffee and refreshments.** REG.: 9-9:45 AM. RDS.: 10-12:30-3-5:30 PM. **EF:** \$20 cash or check at door. **BYES:** One 1/2-point bye Rds. 1, 2 or 3. LS W. Advance Entries and Information: Jim Berry, P O Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. JABerrycg@aol.com.

Book



Reviews

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW: Man vs. Machine: Challenging Human Supremacy at Chess

Today it's a far gone conclusion computers are significantly stronger than humans at chess. So dominant have the Silicon oracles become that their influence is felt everywhere from adjournments (no longer possible), to anti-cheating measures (absolutely necessary) to sharply influencing theory to the extent that the London System and Giuoco Piano have become cutting edge openings (anything to avoid computer prep).

It wasn't always this way as we learn from *Man vs. Machine:*

Challenging Human Supremacy at Chess (Russell Enterprises 2018, 479 pages, \$34.95) by Karsten Mueller and Jonathan Schaeffer. The first author, GM Mueller, is a well-known endgame expert while Schaeffer has been at the forefront of research involving artificial intelligence using games and puzzles.

The authors trace the rise of computers from beginner level in the mid 1950s to 2200 thirty years later. That was the hard work. Since then they have gotten stronger and stronger (now well over 3000) as computing power has increased exponentially. All the significant human

vs. machine matches from the 1990s and early 2000s are closely examined including the two Kasparov-Deep Blue matches.

This book includes Fischer's three games versus MacHack in 1977. These encounters are well known, but the details surrounding the match have long been a mystery as Fischer sent only the game scores to the *Computer Chess Newsletter*. The authors provide a few answers. Richard Greenblatt, who created MacHack, was not present and Bobby traveled to MIT to play the games. This ends speculation Fischer played remotely, but raises a new set of questions. Did Fischer travel to Boston from California on his own dime? That would be very unlike Fischer, but at the time it's known he was very interested in chess playing computers and MacHack, if no longer the strongest program, was at the time the most famous.

Those who are interested in seeing how chess computers have gotten progressively stronger will find *Man vs. Machine: Challenging Human Supremacy at Chess* a compelling read.

